

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0410

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJ: IEA-- PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0817 (B) STATE 019171

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYENLUND CALLED ME IN TODAY TO DISCUSS
GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON DRAFT IEA-NORWAY AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE HAD
JUST COME FROM CABINET MEETING CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI
IN WHICH CABINET HAD AGREEMENT UPON A DRAFT PROPOSED STATEMENT IN WHI
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HE SAID NORWEGIANS TRIED VERY HARD TO MEET OUR WISHES FOR A PRE-
SUMPTION OF POSITIVE ACTION BY NORWAY, COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL
NORWEGIAN OIL SUPPLIES AND CONSULTATION. HE SAID STATEMENT WOULD
BE USED TO CLARIFY NORWAY'S INTENT AND WOULD BE DELIVERED ON SIGN-
ING OF AGREEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY DID NOT WANT TO CHANGE
THE WORDING OF PRESENT DRAFT AGREEMENT.

2. GRYDENLUND SAID HE WAS TRANSMITTING TEXT OF CABINET'S
PROPOSED STATEMENT TO BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO DAVIGNON
FOR HIM TO DISCUSS WITH THE U.S.

3. I HAD ONLY BRIEF READING OF THE TEXT AND FELT THAT WHILE
THE BASIC ELEMENTS WE WANT ARE THERE THEY MAY NOT BE AS EXPLICITLY
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STATED AS WE MIGHT WISH.

4. I GAINED CLEAR IMPRESSION FROM FRYDENLUND THAT WHILE NORWEGIANS WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO SOME MODIFICATION OF THEIR DRAFT STATEMENT THIS IS ABOUT AS FAR AS THEY ARE WILLING TO GO. HE HAS NOW BEEN TO THE CABINET TWICE WITH THE DRAFT, AND HE TOLD ME HE FEARS IF RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER IS FURTHER DELAYED AND RESULTS IN CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF NORWAY AT NEXT IEA MEETING "AS A CONSEQUENCE OF US PRESSURE", PARLIAMENTARY ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE SEVERELY JEOPARDIZED.

5. FRYDENLUND SAID IF US INSISTS UPON MODIFICATION OF DRAFT APPLICATION AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR IMPACT ON CANADIAN ADHERENCE, NORWAY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DELAY ITS AFFILIATION UNTIL IEA IS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN MAY ALONG LINES OF CABINET'S CURRENT DRAFT STATEMENT. HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT FAVOR THIS COURSE. WHILE FRYDENLUND EVIDENTLY BELIEVES THAT BOARD WOULD APPROVE ORIGINAL DRAFT AFFILIATION AGREEMENT IF PUT TO VOTE, HE TOLD ME HE NEVERTHELESS WISHES TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT WITH THE US AND BELIEVES COMPROMISE THEY HAVE DRAFTED MEETS OUR NEEDS.

6. I BELIEVE IF WE CANNOT ACCEPT LATEST NORWEGIAN DRAFT OR A SOMEWHAT MODIFIED VERSION OF IT, WE MUST EXPECT THAT THE NORWEGIANS WILL SERIOUSLY EXAMINE THREE ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION: (A) TO SEEK AN EARLY VOTE IN THE BOARD ON THEIR APPLICATION ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM; (B) TO POSTPONE SEEKING MEMBERSHIP UNTIL MAY WHEN IEA IS ESTABLISHED AND CANADA IS A MEMBER; OR (C) TO WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDACY. SINCE FROM HERE THESE ALTERNATIVES SEEM LESS DESIRABLE THAN BRINGING THE NORWEGIANS INTO THE IEA NOW, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT WE SEEK TO REACH SOME COMPROMISE ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSED NORWEGIAN DRAFT STATEMENT WHICH WILL ENABLE NORWAY TO ATTEND THE NEXT IEA SESSION. BYR
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